Feb. 17, 1959 J. T. GATES 2,873,859

IMPRINTER PLATE RACK

Filed Jan. 16, 1956 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

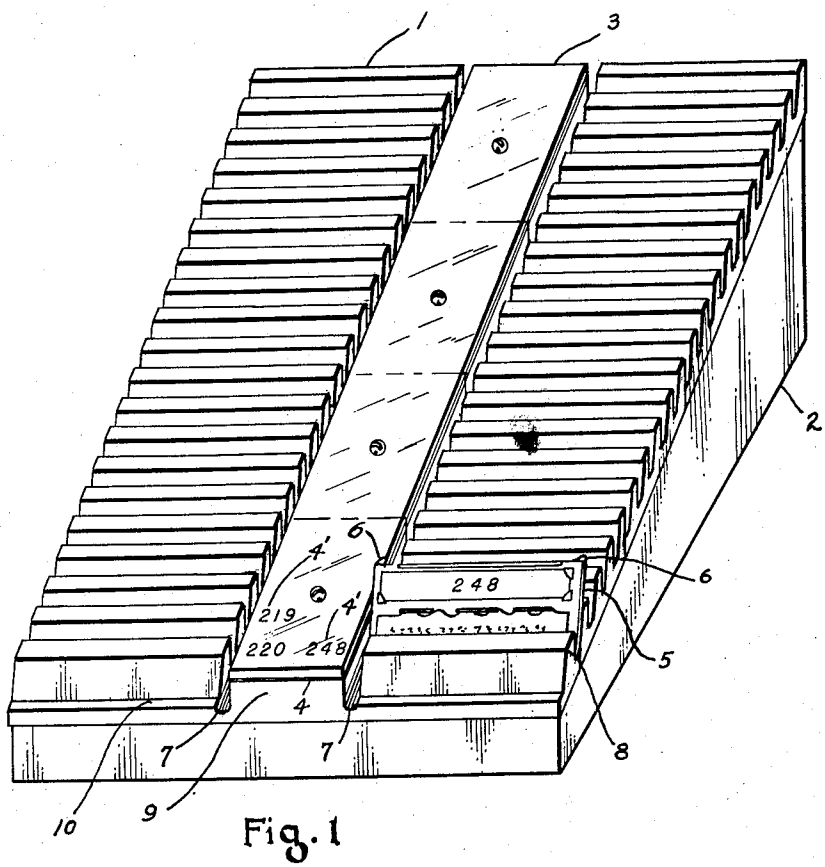


Fig. 1

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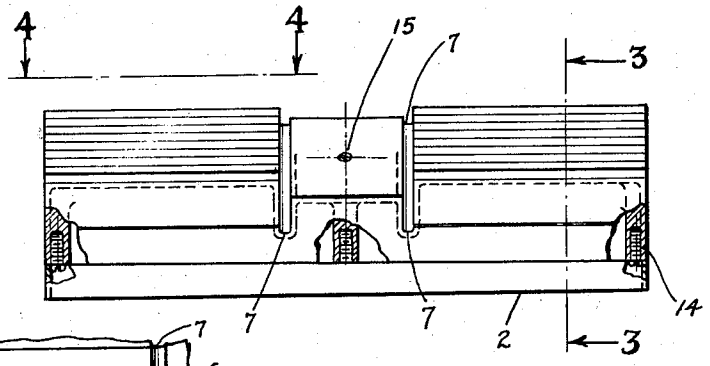


Fig. 2

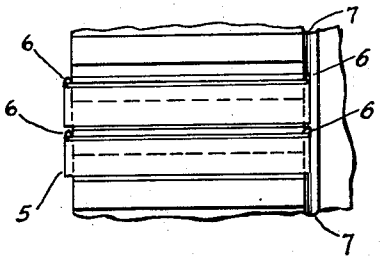


Fig. 4

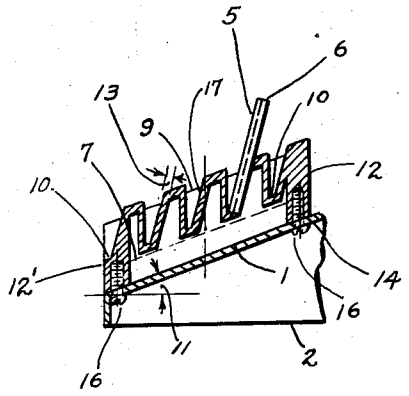


Fig. 3

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IMPRINTER PLATE RACK

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2 Claims. (Cl. 211—41)

This invention relates to a special rack designed to hold embossed imprinter plates and plate frames, which are used in a small hand-type printing machine of a special type. The purpose served by the rack is to provide a storage place or systematic filing arrangement whereby numerous imprinter plates can be centrally kept in a logical order for ready accessible use and reference.

The need for the rack was made imperative when my new copyrighted system of streamlining hospital paperwork was introduced. This new hospital paperwork system employs an imprinter which uses embossed plates similar to those found in many department stores, where they are used in conjunction with a charge plate addressing imprinter system. The imprinter, specially designed for hospital use, however, has distinct and separate features, which is an invention in itself and is not a part of the considerations of this disclosure. The embossed plates referred to in this invention are usually inserted into a standard size plateholder known in the art as a frame and will be referred to as such in the explanatory matter of this invention.

An object of this invention is to provide a rack having a grooved inclined plane into which numerous imprinter plates can be placed. The inclined plane, as well as the grooved slots, are set at such an angle that captions appearing on the plates can be seen easily when the rack is placed on a desk of conventional height and the viewer is seated at the desk.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a series of grooves or slots in the inclined top section of the rack designed in such a manner that the imprinter plate frames will catch and hold secure, so that ordinary desk vibration or jarring will not dislodge them from the rack. Yet, on the other hand, the slots allow sufficient freedom and play in order that the plate frames can be lifted out of the rack slots with ease and without interference.

A further objective of this invention is to provide a sectional top for the rack, so that added plate slots can be provided as the need increases. Each section is a separate but integral part of the rack when assembled and contains a fixed number of plate slots per section.

Still another objective of this invention is to provide two parallel sets of slots, in the sectional top of the rack, which are side-by-side and spaced at a fixed distance apart horizontally along the upwardly extending inclined surface of the rack so as to provide a space between the sets for indicia designating each slot, as, for instance, with the number of a hospital room. In a preferred use of the device, the frames in each set might represent the rooms respectively on one side of a hallway. The spacing of the slots in each set is such that they correspond to exact multiples of conventional typewriter spacing of two-thirds of an inch, where the indicia are to be typed.

Further objects of the present invention and certain practical advantages will be referred to in, or will be evident from, the following description of the invention and the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a rack constructed in accordance with the features of my invention.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of one of the sections of the rack of Fig. 1 showing in cut-away view the threaded screw hole mounting bosses.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 of Figure 2 with one frame in place.

Figure 4 is a fragmental top plan view taken from the position of the line 4—4 of Fig. 2 showing frames in the slots of the rack.

The rack, of which the top section may be made of molded material or hardwood, is used to store imprinter plates when they are not in immediate use. The plates are used in any one of a number of imprinters designed for the purpose of making a printed impression from an embossed or typed master plate. Although these racks are used chiefly at nursing and clinical stations in hospitals, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to this use only, as these racks may be adapted to systems employed in other business classifications also.

This rack plays a definite part of a system in processing paperwork where imprinters and embossing plates are used to imprint a specified number of captions. When used in connection with hospital paperwork systems, the rack holds an embossed plate for each patient assigned to a given nursing station. When paperwork requiring such captions as a patient's name, address, date, attending physician, etc., is needed, the plate is removed from the rack, placed in an imprinter and impressed by hand to print the required data on the form pertaining to the patient's service being rendered. After the one or more impressions, as the case may be, the plate is again placed back in the rack for storage until the next time it is needed. As twenty or more pieces of paperwork are usually imprinted for each patient at odd times during his stay at the hospital, it can readily be understood that this rack provides a definite need in simplifying a paperwork system where such imprinters are used.

As seen in Figure 1 and Figure 2, the top inclined plate **1** is attached to the metal, wooden or molded base **2**. Several sections, as indicated by the number of slots in Figure 3, are used to make up the entire top section, as shown in Figure 1. When the top sections are in place, being attached to the base by screws **16**, a clear plastic shield **3** is fastened over the top sections to provide a protected space for a slot identification card **4** bearing indicia **4'**. The plate frame **5**, which provides the necessity for the invention, has a vertical flange **6** at each end of the frame. A groove **7** separates each set of the frame supports **8** from the card identification pedestal **9**. These grooves are recessed below the bottom surfaces of the slots **10** so that when the plate frame **5** is positioned back at an angle against inclined wall **17**, the flanges **6** will not strike bottom, but are provided with a hooking corner for the flanges **6** of the frames. This feature prevents the frames from jarring out of their slots due to normal vibration or accidental jarring of the rack.

Referring to Figure 3, it can be seen that the bottom of the section **1** is on an angle **11**, preferably about 20° to the horizontal, so that the sections will fit on the inclined base **2** of Figure 1. While the front side of the slot **10** is approximately perpendicular, the opposite side is inclined, preferably at an angle about 15° to the vertical, so that the plate frame will be positioned back at a slight angle for visual convenience. The last frame support of this section has a perpendicular back **12** so that successive sections can be placed with their vertical fronts **12'** flush with the back wall **12** of preceding sections which make up the rack top. The front of each section **1** is started with a slot land **10**, so that a complete slot is formed when one section is butted against the back wall of an-

other section. Lightening of the entire section is provided with appropriate wall thickness 13 by the routed under cavity of the section. Six screw holes 14 are formed in the section 1, as shown, to provide a means of attaching each section to the base 2. The identification pedestal 9 is at a slightly lower level than the height of the slot sides so that when the card shield 3 is screwed in place, the shield is flush with the entire top surface of the rack.

In Figures 2 and 4 it can be seen more clearly that the separation space 7 permits ample room for locking the plate frame flanges 6 on the end edges of the frame supports. A screw hole 15 and under supporting boss, not shown, provides a means of attaching the card identification shield 3. Screw holes 14 are shown in cutaway positions of the front section, which furnish three front and three comparable rear screw holes for attaching the section 1 to the base 2.

Having thus described my invention and illustrated its use, what I claim is new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A rack for holding a plurality of frames comprising two sets of parallel frame supports defining frame holding slots between them, said supports positioned with each support progressively higher from front to rear of said rack, said supports providing an approximately vertical wall at the front of each slot and a rear wall of each slot inclined upwardly and rearwardly, each slot having a land at the bottom between supports of a width to snugly receive a frame, the walls and bottom of a slot defined by said supports in one set being coplanar with like parts defined by supports in the other set, a raised strip extending from front to rear of said rack between said sets of frame supports, and a groove provided in said rack along each side of said strip and between said strip and said sets of frame supports, said grooves being deeper than the bottom lands of said slots, whereby to hold flanged frames tilted rearwardly with their flanges engaged in said grooves, said front and rear rack walls being vertical, said rear rack wall being in the plane of one of said front walls of a slot, said front rack wall lying in a plane which includes the forward edge of one of said lands, whereby two racks may be assembled with the front rack wall of one abutting the rear rack wall of another to provide a continuous uniform rack.

2. The combination of claim 1 including a base, said base having a depth from front to rear sufficient to receive at least two racks in abutting relationship one back of the other, said base having a top surface inclined rearwardly and upwardly at an angle, each of said racks having top and bottom surfaces inclined rearwardly and upwardly at said same angle, and means of securing a plurality of said racks to said top surface of said base, and the racks being secured in abutting relationship one back of the other.

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